



Lonestar Dustoff returns to Iraq for OIF2

Only a few months after coming home from the first Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment, the 507th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), based out of Fort Hood, Texas, has returned to Iraq as part of OIF2.

The unit departed from Fort Hood on February 18, 2004, and was cleared into Iraq two days later, when they arrived at Al Asad Airbase. Al Asad is the second biggest airfield in Iraq. There, the 507th met with the unit they were replacing, the 571st Medical Company (Air Ambulance), based out of Fort Carson, Colorado. The two units then conducted the first ever company-to-company equipment transfer in a combat theater. They completed the transfer of approximately \$300 million of equipment in less than two weeks.

While the 507th falls under the command and control of the 429th Medical Evacuation Battalion, an Army reserve unit from



CW3 Nicholson (left) and CW2 Blackmon of the 507th MC (AA) display their artwork on a building at Al Asad Airbase, Iraq.

Savannah, Georgia, their mission is to act in support of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. This support was exemplified one night this past March, when the 507th's Aircraft 882 and two Marine Cobra helicopters flew to a refueling point after returning from an urgent MEDEVAC mission.

The two Cobra helicopters became disoriented and crashed into each other, leaving one on its side and the other in flames and upside-down. SPC Erik Burns and SSG Spencer Howell, from the crew of Aircraft 882, went to the inverted aircraft and extracted two pilots who were trapped in the burning wreckage.

A request has been put in for SPC Burns and SSG Howell to receive the Navy & Marine Corps Medal, which can be awarded to servicemen serving with the Navy or Marine Corps for heroism not involving actual conflict with enemy. It is equivalent to the Army's Soldier's Medal.

"Those two Marines would not be here today had they not been pulled from their aircraft in time," said CPT John Goette, Jr., of the 507th.

Although the heat and sand have made life difficult on the Soldiers of the 507th, the company has some amenities that make the conditions easier to bear. These include a ping-pong table, an exercise gym, televisions, DVD players, X-Box video game consoles, and air conditioning in some areas.

More information and pictures of the 507th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) can be found online, at the website of the 429th MEB at www.429thmedevac.com.

Boomer Dustoff saves lives, trains soldiers

This past month has seen the 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance), based out of Fort Riley, Kansas, reach the three-month mark for its OIF 2 deployment. Soldiers of the company have settled into their MEDEVAC role, logging over 800 hours of flight time, and have adjusted to life in LSA Anaconda.

The unit's soldiers are also taking full advantage of the various education programs offered by the Education Center at LSA Anaconda.

Four Soldiers of the 82nd were trained as combat lifesavers and four Soldiers completed the GT improvement classes. The Soldiers completing GT improvement will be tested in Kuwait.



SPC Rogers re-enlists in Mosul.

In May, the company completed construction of a new tactical operations building. This project was completed 100% by the Soldiers of the company, and is a project of which they should be justifiably proud. The new TOC has

significantly improved MEDEVAC operations in the ITO.

Three Soldiers were boarded for promotion to sergeant. All were recommended for promotion. One Soldier, SPC Rogers, took his reenlistment oath on the grounds of one of Saddam Hussein's former palaces in Mosul.

So far, four Soldiers of the 82nd have been able to go home as part of the R&R program. The unit has also been able to take advantage of the Fighter Management Pass Program (FMPP). The FMPP allows for Soldiers to go to an R&R location in Qatar to enjoy some much-deserved down time. The FMPP has been a big success thus

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Why

"Nine-Line" News?

When a medical evacuation is needed, the request given to the evacuation asset typically adheres to a certain format. This format ensures that the asset will have the information necessary for a successful evacuation. There are multiple formats that can be used when MEDEVAC requests are being made over the radio. The format that is most commonly taught and used has nine sets of information, or nine lines.



224th MD provides preventive med support

The 224 Medical Detachment (Preventive Medicine) continues to conduct area PM support for MND-Central and MND-North (1st Infantry Division/Stryker Brigade). During April, the detachment conducted twenty-four convoy operations and logged seven hundred miles for all personnel. The detachment conducted sixty-four Base Camp Assistance/Assessment Team (BCAT) missions and numerous other PM inspections at eight separate Forward Operating Bases (FOBs). The detachment also conducted health surveillance sampling at Kirkuk AFB and resampled at FOB Sumerall.

SSG Royce Patton, 224th MD's detachment sergeant, instituted a certification process with local water points to ensure that only authorized potable water containers can receive water

from these points. The detachment executive officer, CPT Jason Squitier, was selected as a subject matter expert by the Air Force biomedical section at Kirkuk and will now identify all their insects in theater, rather than them having to send them to Germany. Identifying insects in theater will result in a reduction in mission lag time. The detachment commander, CPT Hugh Bailey, conducted an engineering assistance visit to FOB Arrow to refurbish its water treatment plant.

During April, both SPC Hector Estrada and SGT Aaron Taylor were able to return to the United States on mid-tour leave. SGT Taylor arrived in Texas literally hours after his wife went into labor, was picked up and delivered to the hospital by the commander's wife,

Stephanie Bailey, and was able to be present at the birth of his son, Victor.

In May, the detachment logged ten convoys for 350 miles, conducted twenty BCAT missions, and provided the first ever 224th MD Iraq Field Sanitation Team class, graduating ten servicemembers. The detachment also conducted cross training in aerosol generator operations for 1st Infantry Division and 25th Infantry Division PM Soldiers. The unit is slated to receive a certificate of appreciation from 10th Special Forces Group for PM support during OIF II. The detachment conducted health surveillance sampling in Kirkuk and water sampling for the Coalition Provisional Authority personnel located in Kirkuk. The 224th also conducted a PM assistance visit to

the 507th MC (AA) in Al Quaim and Al Asad. On an individual note, SGT Eugene Hernandez received a commander's coin for his rapid response to vehicle trouble during an IED attack on FOB Danger. In addition, SGT Julian Perez and SPC Markice Lewis were recognized as providing "outstanding preventive medicine support" to the Stryker Brigade. The detachment has conducted spray missions at both Kirkuk Air Base and Camp Speicher.

CPT Bailey said of the 224th: "In general, the detachment has settled into its routine mission in Iraq, and the personnel are busy, but happy. Morale is high, soldiers are focused, and the detachment is performing as should be expected from the world class PM specialists and personnel it has."

555th FST gets TV coverage

From May 3 to May 7, the 555th Forward Surgical Team, also known as the "Triple Nickel," shined in the spotlight when they were covered by local news channels in the Killeen, Texas, area.

The local stations covered a field training exercise conducted by the unit that encompassed the different phases of medical coverage provided by the FST. The exercise started with air support with the 1256th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), an Army reserve unit that has been

activated to Fort Hood, Texas, and ended with the recovery phase that occurs after surgery. The FTX allowed the unit to test out its new medical equipment and its much needed Emergency Care Unit (ECU).

This month, the Triple Nickel will be saying goodbye to its commanding officer, MAJ Michael Weber. The 555th's change of command ceremony has been scheduled for Friday, June 11. MAJ Weber is PCSing to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC.

Boomer Dustoff

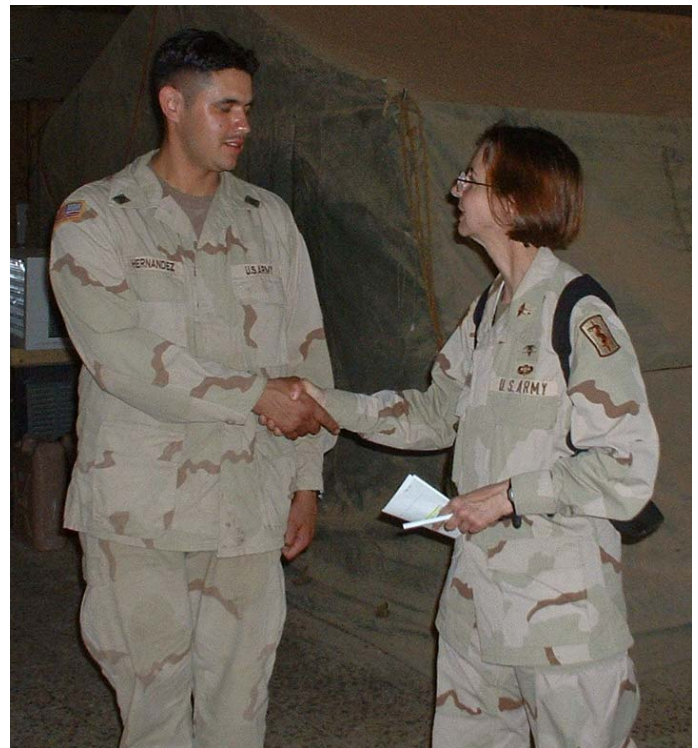
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far, and they intend to take full advantage of this program for the remainder of the year.

The company continues to make improvements in the living conditions for its Soldiers. The completion of new tent living facilities complete with new air conditioning units

and electrical boxes will make the company area more comfortable as the temperature continues to rise.

The 82nd Medical Company's aviation maintenance platoon has been doing a phenomenal job in keeping the aircraft up and running. During this month the unit exceeded the DA standard for aviation maintenance, a significant feat.



SGT Eugene Hernandez of the 224th Medical Detachment (Preventive Medicine) shakes hands with LTC Karen Gausman, 67th Combat Support Hospital (Tikrit) OIC, after being awarded with a 67th CSH commander's coin.



HHD Soldiers conduct CPX, appear in new Army commercial

To assess its deployment readiness, the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment of the 36th MEB conducted a command post exercise (CPX) at the St. Elijah Company MOUT Site in the Fort Hood, Texas, training area from May 4-5, 2004.

The site is meant to resemble conditions in which the HHD might live if it were to deploy to Iraq. At the site, Soldiers set up a tactical operations center and an administrative/logistics center, with electricity and radio communications.

While the HHD was conducting its CPX in one area of the site, a crew was preparing to shoot a new television commercial for the Army in another area of the site. During a break in training, a member of the film crew approached some of the HHD's Soldiers and asked them if they would like to participate. SPC Corey Gibson and SPC Anthony Vizzini were outfitted with uniforms and equipment from different time periods in the Army's past. The commercials should begin airing during the first week of June.

1256th MC (AA) deploys to Fort Hood to support III Corps

The 1256th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), a National Guard unit, was recently deployed to Fort Hood, Texas, to support III Corps areas that are normally covered by the 82nd MC (AA) and 507th MC (AA), 36th MEB units which are both currently deployed to Iraq.

Based on a critical shortfall of valuable air MEDEVAC assets and the unit's high personnel readiness, the unit was alerted on December 16, 2003, for deployment on January 13, 2004. With only one assigned aircraft and numerous training shortfalls, the unit began an aggressive training plan in preparation for deployment. To accomplish the mission, the unit received 3 aircraft from the general support aviation battalion in Minnesota and six aircraft and fifteen personnel from the 126th Medical Company (AA) Detachment 1 out of the Nevada National Guard. Other personnel augmentation came from three other units within the 34th Aviation

Brigade in Minnesota and five soldiers from the 1256th MC (AA) Det 1 from IN.

The 1256th deployed to Fort Hood on January 13, 2004, and began processing into the active army. It began air MEDEVAC support of III Corps training sites on February 7, 2004, and will continue coverage for a period of one year or until relieved. The company has detachments at Fort Bliss, Texas, Fort Carson, Colorado, Fort Riley, Kansas, and Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

As of June 1, 2004, the 1256th has performed over 50 MEDEVAC missions in support of the III Corps installations and has greatly increased their mission proficiency and overall readiness. Unit missions include NVG and day hoist extraction at Fort Bliss and Fort Sill, numerous range missions at Fort Hood and patient transfers at all locations. The unit continues to conduct mission focused training at all locations and stands ready to respond to virtually any scenario.

OIF II evacuation by the numbers:

Flight and mission data

Unit	Hours Flown	Urgent	Priority	Routine
82nd MC (AA)	856	232	103	491
507th MC (AA)	984	110	77	55

418th & 591st Medical Logistics Companies past events

April 1-2 — National Stockpile Exercise
 April 12-14 — Company Loading Exercise
 April 19-23 — Company Pallet Load Training (418th)
 April 26-29 — Company LoadEx/Convoys (418th)
 April 28 — Company Safety Stand-Down Day (591st)
 May 3-7 — Company Field Training Exercise (418th)
 May 10-23 — Company Field Training Exercise (591st)
 May 28 — Training Holiday

Mailing addresses for our deployed units

507th MC (AA)

Rank / Name of Soldier
 507th MC, I MEF
 Unit #91549
 APO AE 09333-1549

82nd MC (AA)

Rank / Name of Soldier
 82nd Medical Company (AA)
 LSA Anaconda, Balad
 APO AE 09391

224th MD (PM)

Rank / Name of Soldier
 224th Medical Detachment (PM)
 Camp Speicher
 APO AE 09392

THE NINE-LINE NEWS

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